

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

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FOR MOOSE

FOL RPT PRETORIA 1691 ACTION SECSTATE LONDON USUN NY INFO
CAPE TOWN DAR ES SALAAM GABORONE LAGOS LILONGWE LUSAKA
MAPUTO 23 MAR 78 QUOTE

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: INTERNAL SETTLEMENT ROUNDUP

1. RHODESIAN DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE HAROLD HAWKINS
TOLD THE AMBASSADOR ON MARCH 22 THAT THE NEXT STEP IN
SALISBURY WAS THE FORMATION OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL.
HE SAID IT WAS DECIDED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (EC)
THAT THERE WOULD BE ONLY NINE PORTFOLIOS WITH A BLACK AND
WHITE MINISTER FOR EACH. HAWKINS ALSO SAID THAT GENERAL
ELECTIONS ARE NOW BEING PLANNED FOR NOVEMBER.

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2. IN SALISBURY, PRESS ACCOUNTS SAY THAT REV. SITHOLE
TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HE WOULD NOT ATTEND ANY NEW
CONFERENCE BECAUSE THE "RHODESIAN PROBLEM (IS)
SETTLED". SITHOLE ALSO SAID THAT THE EC IS ALREADY
CONSIDERING DETAILS OF AN AMNESTY POLICY FOR
GUERRILLAS WHO "WANT A SETTLEMENT SO THAT THEY CAN
COME HOME." THE EC, ACCORDING TO SITHOLE, IS ALSO

GOING TO LIFT THE BAN ON ZANU AND ZAPU WITHIN A WEEK WHICH IS "TANTAMOUNT TO AN INVITATION TO NKOMO AND MUGABE TO RETURN HOME." SITHOLE, HOWEVER, DECLARED THAT HE, NOT MUGABE, WAS THE PRESIDENT OF ZANU.

3. ALSO FROM SALISBURY, IT IS REPORTED THAT THE COMBINED OPERATIONS COMMAND HAS BEEN RESTRUCTURED INTO A "HIGH-POWERED" JOINT OPERATIONS CENTER HEADED BY LT. GENERAL PETER WALLS. ACCORDING TO THE PRSS ACCOUNTS, THIS WILL GIVE WALLS A FREER HAND IN RUNNING THE WAR OPERATIONS.
BOWDLER

UNQUOTE VANCE

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